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ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES PRAISES PRO- COMPETITIVE MICHIGAN TELECOM BILL

**Statements by John D. Windhausen, Jr., President, and Kim Kirby,
Vice President for State Affairs, On Michigan House Bill 5721**

LANSING, MI, JUNE 23, 2000 – The Association for Local Telecommunications Services (ALTS), the leading national organization representing facilities-based competitive local exchange carriers, today praised Michigan House Bill 5721, and urged Governor John Engler to quickly sign the bill into law.

The following statement may be attributed to John D. Windhausen, Jr., President of ALTS:

“The Association for Local Telecommunications Services applauds the Michigan legislature’s passing of HB 5721, and we encourage Governor Engler, an original sponsor of the bill, to sign it as soon as possible. The measure is a win for Michigan consumers. By granting the Michigan Public Service Commission the authority it requires to enforce the Telecommunications Act of 1996, in addition to an expedited complaint process, the bill helps ensure that consumers will soon have greater choice in service providers.”

The following statement may be attributed to Kim Kirby, Vice President for State Affairs for ALTS.

“Adequate oversight by the Michigan Public Service Commission, coupled with the ability to enforce swift remedies, will enable competitors to compete on a more equal footing with SBC Ameritech and GTE. Open incumbent networks are required for a competitive telecommunications market to flourish and yield the promised benefits of lower costs and better service. HB 5721 will provide competitive carriers the access they need to deliver these benefits to Michigan consumers because SBC Ameritech and GTE will be held accountable for anti-competitive behavior.”

ALTS is the leading national industry association whose mission is to promote facilities-based local telecommunications competition. Created in 1987, ALTS has offices in Washington, D.C. and Irvine, California and now represents more than 200 companies that build, own, and operate competitive local networks. For more information on ALTS, contact Crawford Public Relations at 703-318-5460 or visit www.alts.org.

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